THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (e) In order to promote rapid development in all aspects of telecommunications including technology, production and services, the Govérnment of India after careful consideration decided in April 1989 to establish a Telecom Commission with full executive and financial powers. The Telecom Commission is part of the Department of Telecommunications. There is no proposal to change the present character of this Department as on date.

The Government has already set up a Vigilance Monitoring Division with regional offices for monitoring of telecom networks across the country. Violation of licence regulations is dealt as per terms & conditions of licence. The licencing conditions provide for facilities for monitoring of telecommunication traffic by law enforcement agencies.

Running of Parallel Telephone Exchanges

†*419. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a people are running parallet telephone exchanges in the country which is causing heavy losses of revenue to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the persons found guilty in the inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Based on source information/or information provided by security agencies, Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Units of Department of Telecommunications, along with security agencies have curbed many illegal grey market telephone setups in the country, as soon as they have been detected.

(b) As on date 284 illegal grey market telephone setups have been detected and raided all over India. The year-wise breakup of the cases is as shown below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1998-1999	09
1999-2000	10
2000-2001	29
2001-2002	56
2002-2003	46
2003-2004	32
20004-2005	94
2005-till date	08

As per available data, estimated national loss of more than Rs. 450 Crores has occurred due to such illegal grey market telephone setups.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) FIR is lodged against the offenders found, who has setup the illegal grey market telephone setup and case is registered in the court of law, mainly under section 420, 120B, 379 of IPC, 4, 20, 20A, 25 of IT Act &/or 3, 6 of IWT Act, in addition to any new sections as applicable based on case-to-case basis.

All the equipments used in the illegal grey market switch are seized by the security agencies.

Arrest of Indians in Bangladesh

*420. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether nine Indians were arrested in Bangladesh on March 11, 2005 and lodged in Bangla jails;

(b) if so, the total number of Indians in Bangladesh jails as on April 1, 2005, and on what grounds they have been arrested/imprisoned indicating the charges against them; and

(c) the steps taken so far to secure their release and return to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(a) Yes Sir. Nine Indian nationals from Tripura were arrested on March 11, 2005 in Laksham, Comilla district of Bangladesh. According to press